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SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, I very much appreciate the leadership and support of Senator Chambers on the bill. And I appreciate the thoughtfulness of Senator Beutler's remarks. I feel compelled to add that from my personal perspective, I believe that his hope is...is going to be fulfilled and that there is a responsiveness and an interest in addressing the things that he expressed. It is important that we keep our eye on the ball. This is the beginning of a lengthy process as it relates to this session of the Legislature. This is the beginning of a lengthy process as it relates to the entirety of how we will spend money. We must have this beginning by advancing this bill. It is important that we focus on the fact that this is not going to happen any time soon. It will be 2001 before the Supreme Court will receive their increase. It will be 2003 before the appellate court receives its increase. That's a function of how the law works. So this is...we need a long-term vision as we move. And, please remember, what I pointed out earlier, two years ago when we said that the administration of justice in this state must be supported and compensated fairly, we made similar moves to these, and we have fallen further behind in terms of national ranking. Not going to distort it, we've only fallen one place. But that proves that others are honoring and revering and compensating the administration of justice. I urge us not to fail to advance this bill and keep ourselves in the appropriate play as it relates to the entirety of this process. I urge advancement. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker...yes, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I'm trying to stay neutral on this issue. I simply wanted to call peoples attention to the fact that these are the places to spend money. Now Senator Brashear indicated it's really a few years out, couple years out before we take effect. I understand that. It will go...if this happens, what, all the way through May, this would go into the status. The point is I want to just remind the body that these are the kind of issues that eventually add up to real spending increases in the budget; and that when we sincerely try to hold the line at